

OVERVIEW

This document has been prepared by Consulting, Services And Solutions Group, Inc. (CSSG) in response to the RFP# DOE-SGA-2012-15, Committee Questions:

- Alignment (a separate Word document is provided for each proposed assessment)
- Student Growth
- Reporting
- Technology
- Availability

RFP# DOE-SGA-2012-15, COMMITTEE QUESTION, ALIGNMENT:

Provide evidence of alignment to the current Standards of Learning including a comparative chart of content standards developed by your company to VA content standards for each content area/grade level that your proposed assessment(s) addresses and numbers of items for each standard. If you are planning to develop assessments in response to the contract being awarded, provide the content standards that you will include in your assessment(s) and the number of items you will develop for each standard with a timeline.

CSSG RESPONSE:

CSSG has provided a separate Word document for each assessment listing the number of items for each standard. A complete listing of the proposed assessments is found in the “Availability” section of this document along with a listing of the number of items in our growing test item bank that is exclusive for formative assessments. A separate and distinct item bank is provided for teacher common assessments.

CSSG is not proposing to develop additional tests; however, we will develop new assessments or modify existing ones at the request of the VDOE. Any modifications can be made within three (3) days of notification by VDOE provided that existing Standards of Learning Assessment Resource System items will be used in the changes. If new items are to be created for this test, CSSG can create the new items and complete the quality assurance within ten (10) business days.

Evidence of Alignment

CSSG uses the current Virginia Curriculum Framework and blueprint documents when creating and aligning test items in our Standards of Learning Assessment Resource System XII. The test items are written to the exacting “bullet” level of the Virginia Curriculum Frameworks, we assign Bloom’s Taxonomy levels assuring a balance of items across the cognitive domains, and we provide distracter justifications/rationales for the test items to enhance the data analysis phase for educators. The remainder of this page provides alignment examples.

The following provides evidence of alignment of test items to the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) for existing assessments.

SOL Stand **Essential Knowledge and Skill Bullet #2**

28 Item#: 101941 SOL: A.7b ES: B EK: BT: AP

What is the range of the function graphed below?

Bloom's Taxonomy Level Application (AP)

F $y = 9$
G $y \geq -6$
H $-6 \leq y \leq 9$ ← **Keyed Response Bolded**
J $-9 \leq y \leq 8$

Bloom's Taxonomy "Knowledge"

Question 33 of 33 Item#: 106294 SOL: 3.17c ES: K EK: BT: K

The graph shows the favorite color of students in a class. Which color is the least popular?

Essential Knowledge and Skill Bullet #11

SOL 3.17c

Favorite Colors

A Yellow
B Orange
C Green

The following provides additional evidence of alignment of test items to the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) for existing assessments.

Question 32 of 35 Item#: 106239 SOL: 4.16b ES: D EK: BT: C

Which is the associative property for addition?

F $9 \times (5 \times 7) = (9 \times 5) \times 7$
G $9 + 5 + 7 = 7 + 5 + 9$
H $9 + (5 + 7) = (9 + 5) + 7$ ← **Keyed Response Bolded**
J $9 + (5 + 7) = (5 + 7) + 9$

SOL 4.16b

Essential Knowledge and Skill Bullet #4

Question 29 of 33 Item#: 102007 SOL: A.7f ES: D EK: BT: C

If Sarah has 3 A's on her report card her parents give her \$45. If she has 5 A's she gets \$75, and if she has 7 A's she gets \$105. Which pattern describes the amount Sarah gets for her A's?

A There is no pattern for the amount Sarah gets.
B Sarah gets \$30 more than the number of A's she has.
C Sarah gets 10 times the number of A's, minus \$15.
D Sarah gets \$15 for every A she has on her report card.

Bloom's Taxonomy "Comprehension"

SOL A.7f Algebra

The content, knowledge and essential skills that are measured for each content area are as follows:

- Math Grade 2 – End of Course Content Area Skills Measured are:** The Virginia Mathematics Standards and the associated cross-walked bulleted Essential Knowledge and Skills of the Virginia Curriculum Frameworks are measured for this content area, complimented with cognitive skill measurement, since each item on the assessment forms are also aligned to Bloom's Taxonomy;

- **English Grade 2 – End of Course Content Area Skills Measured are:** The Virginia English Standards and the associated cross-walked bulleted Essential Knowledge, Skills and Processes of the Virginia Curriculum Frameworks are measured for this content area, complemented with cognitive skill measurement, since each item on the assessment forms are also aligned to Bloom’s Taxonomy;
- **Science Grade 3 – End of Course Content Area Skills Measured are:** The Virginia Science Standards and the associated cross-walked bulleted Essential Knowledge, Skills and Processes of the Virginia Curriculum Frameworks for each grade level are measured for this content area, complemented with cognitive skill measurement, since each item on the assessment forms are also aligned to Bloom’s Taxonomy;
- **History Grade 2 – End of Course Content Area Skills Measured are:** The Virginia History Standards and the associated cross-walked bulleted Essential Knowledge, Skills and Processes of the Virginia Curriculum Frameworks are measured for this content area, complemented with cognitive skill measurement, since each item on the assessment forms are also aligned to Bloom’s Taxonomy;

The types of test items used are:

- **Multiple Choice:** Math (Grades 2-EOC) , Reading/Writing (Grades 2-EOC) , Science (Grades 2 – EOC), History (Grades 3 – EOC)
- **Fill in the Blank:** Math (Grades 3- EOC) **Note:** Being expanded to all other contents areas.
- **Drag and Drop:** Math (Grades 3 – EOC) **Note:** Being expanded to all other content areas.
- **Hot Spot:** Math (Grades 3 – EOC) **Note:** Being expanded to all other content areas.
- **Online Writing Tool:** Writing (Grades 5, 8, EOC) Student documents sent to teacher(s) automatically after student submission and if applicable SPED teacher(s) assigned to student

Modes of Delivery are:

- Online
- Paper and Pencil
- Clicker Technologies (Offered 2013/2014 Academic Year)

RFP# DOE-SGA-2012-15, COMMITTEE QUESTION, STUDENT GROWTH:

Provide the rationale for the measure of student growth methodology included in Requirement 3.2. Also provide the procedures used to validate the measures of growth including statistical processes.

CSSG RESPONSE:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RFP# DOE-SGA-2012-15, COMMITTEE QUESTION, REPORTING:

Provide your best example of a report derived from the assessment's results which illustrates an individual student's growth (not performance).

CSSG RESPONSE:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RFP# DOE-SGA-2012-15, COMMITTEE QUESTION, TECHNOLOGY:

Technology:

For online testing, can portable devices (tablets, iPads, netbooks) be used with the same fidelity as CPUs/laptops? Can reports be accessed with fidelity from portable devices 24 hours a day, 7 days a week?

Expand on the technology information provided in Requirement 4.x to include specific requirements about technology infrastructure related to bandwidth, caching capabilities, numbers of concurrent testers, redundancy of data storage as well as fail-safe protocols during testing windows.

During online testing, will remote, "live-time" diagnostic assistance be provided? If so, describe this assistance.

What level of local IT support should the division expect in each school/classroom in order to appropriately support successful testing?

CSSG RESPONSE:

Portable devices (iPads, netbooks and tablets) can be used with the same fidelity as CPUs/laptops provided they meet the hardware and system requirements of:

[REDACTED]

Reports can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with fidelity from portable devices.

[REDACTED]

Each Windows computer must be installed with Windows XP or higher, IE 8 and above, Adobe Acrobat 9.0 or higher.

Each Apple computer must be installed with Mac OS 10 or higher, Safari 6.x or higher, with cookies and pop-ups enabled for the website: testing.cssg.com, and Adobe Acrobat 9.0 or higher installed.

Windows computers must have Internet Explorer 8 or higher installed and cookies must be enabled.

School/Central Office Hardware and Software Minimum Recommendations

SOLAR® DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR DESKTOP HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS	
Windows PC	
	Intel Core i3 or above Minimum : 4 GB RAM Recommended: 8 GB Ram Windows XP or above Internet Explorer 8 or 9 Adobe Reader 9 or above Adobe Flash
CPU REQUIREMENTS	
MEMORY REQUIREMENTS (RAM)	
VIDEO DISPLAY REQUIREMENTS	
HARD DRIVE REQUIREMENTS*	

SOLAR® TEACHER OR STUDENT DESKTOP HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS	
Windows PC/Laptop	
	P III 733 MHz or Above Minimum: 2 GB RAM Recommended: 4 GB Ram Windows XP or above Internet Explorer 8 or 9 Adobe Reader 9 or above
CPU REQUIREMENTS	
MEMORY REQUIREMENTS (RAM)	
VIDEO DISPLAY REQUIREMENTS	
HARD DRIVE REQUIREMENTS*	

SOLAR® TEACHER OR STUDENT DESKTOP HARDWARE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS	
Apple Macintosh	
	Recommendation iMac G4 or better 256 MB or better SVGA 1024 X 768 or better 1 Gigabyte or more free space
CPU REQUIREMENTS	
MEMORY REQUIREMENTS (RAM)	
VIDEO DISPLAY REQUIREMENTS	
HARD DRIVE REQUIREMENTS	

* **Note:** The hard drive requirements do not include the hard drive space required by the operating system, browser or antivirus software.

Bandwidth Recommendation for Student Online Access At School Sites

Our strong recommendations for any school site that plans to deploy the Standards of Learning Assessment Resource System XII are that each school site meets the requirements provided by the Department of Education for online SOL testing. However, at a minimum each site must have a dedicated school site bandwidth speed of at least 5 Mbps upload and download speed.

Further, allow caching and content scanning of our Assessment Resource System testing websites, testing.cssg.com and testadmin.cssg.com, and associated IP addresses must be disabled at the firewall and/or proxy server(s) for optimum or proper performance. All heavy video streaming that would impact total bandwidth minimums must be scheduled during non-online testing days across the division, since this may have a negative impact on student growth assessments online testing. Student Growth Assessment on-line testing should never take place during State Online testing given the bandwidth contention of the two online applications.

Standards of Learning Assessment Resource System Caching

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Fault Tolerance / Disaster Recovery

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[illegible]

CSSG prides itself in providing exceptional software and technical support services. Superior customer support is one of the biggest components of our service to our clients. Each school district is to identify designated central office personnel, who will be the first line of support for contacting CSSG technical support. These individuals will provide internal district support to their users and escalate to CSSG customer support when necessary for resolution. This model has two major benefits: first, it alerts a district to common questions that may require additional training; second, it keeps CSSG technical support focused on the most important and/or difficult problems facing our district clients.

- Telephone support
- Online Help Desk available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, email support
- Issues tracking technical, Test Item Review
- Upgrades and patches deployment

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Level 1

Since the majority of end-user questions are resolved internally by the district personnel, we expect the first level to handle more in-depth questions or problems including configuration or setup issues. Level 1 is the first level of support and involves application issues that allow our solution to continue functioning with a localized error. Troubleshooting of this service level will be performed by designated on site school or district administrative staff. If the school or district administrative staff is unable to resolve the problem, it is immediately reported to CSSG for assistance and resolution via the online help desk at www.cssg.com (“Ask CSSG”) or by calling the designated help desk telephone number. It also becomes a level 2 support ticket.

Level 2

Our software Developers/Engineers, Database Administrators, Network Engineers and Content Specialist/Item Writers who have an intimate knowledge of the system and database from a programmer’s, database administrator’s, and/or content perspective staff the second level of support.

The telephone support service is not intended for end-users with basic ‘how to’ questions or as a means for new or inexperienced users to learn the system in lieu of training. Within the school district, technical problems should be confirmed and triaged through a central coordinator. Our initial point of contact for all technical issues should be the central coordinator(s) or at a minimum a single point of contact at the building level, not an end-user. This will allow us to determine if the issues are additional, training is required in data analysis, operation of the software and, if necessary, schedule a training session for multiple users to enhance everyone’s learning and capacity using the Web-Based Assessment Solution.

Level 3

Level 3 is reserved for critical issues that occur. Critical issues are defined as system down problems or the system can no longer be used. Level 3 problems are recognized as mission critical problems and will be given the highest priority by CSSG staff and the product development team.

RFP# DOE-SGA-2012-15, COMMITTEE QUESTION, AVAILABILITY:

For those assessments that are being developed, when will assessments be available for operational use?

CSSG RESPONSE:

At this time, CSSG is not developing additional assessments unless requested by VDOE for all districts. CSSG has provided the following assessments:

- Algebra 1 Fall and Spring tests
- Algebra 2 Fall and Spring tests
- Geometry Fall and Spring tests
- Math 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 Fall and Spring tests
- English 3, 4 and 5 Fall, Winter and Spring tests
- English 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 Fall and Spring tests
- Writing 5, 6, 7 and 8 Fall tests
- Writing 9 and 10 Fall and Spring tests
- Science 3, 4 and 5 Fall, Winter and Spring tests
- Science 6, 7 (Life Science), 8 (Physical Science) Fall and Spring tests
- Biology Fall and Spring tests
- Chemistry Fall and Spring tests
- Earth Science Fall and Spring tests
- History 3, 4 and 5 Fall, Winter and Spring tests
- Civics 6 Fall and Spring tests
- US History 7 and 8 Fall and Spring tests
- World History 1 and 2 Fall and Spring tests
- VA and US History Fall and Spring tests

Consulting, Services and Solutions Group, Inc. can modify these tests to include additional items on the tests and/or replace items using the extensive CSSG test item bank. Any modifications can be made within three (3) days of notification by VDOE provided that existing Standards of Learning Assessment Resource System items will be used in the changes. If new items are to be created for this test, CSSG can create the items within ten (10) business days.

Below and on the next few pages is a listing of the growing assessment benchmark test item bank for each content area which is a separate item bank from the teacher item bank, and not accessible by the teachers. The teacher item bank is a separate item bank from the Student Growth Assessments item bank. The Student Growth Assessments items are not designated/defined by designating items from a global assessment item bank as teacher accessible or district only.

CONTENT AREA	NUMBER OF NON-TEACHER TEST ITEMS
Math	
Math 3	
Math 4	
Math 5	
Math 6	
Math 7	
Algebra 1	
Algebra 2	
Geometry	

CONTENT AREA	NUMBER OF NON-TEACHER TEST ITEMS
English	
English 3	
English 4	
English 5	
English 6	
English 7	
English 8	
English 9	
English 10	
English 11	

CONTENT AREA	NUMBER OF NON-TEACHER TEST ITEMS
History/Social Science	
History/Social Science 3	
Virginia Studies	
US History 1	
US History 2	
Civics and Economics	
World Geography	
World History 1	
World History 2	
Virginia and US History	

CONTENT AREA	NUMBER OF NON-TEACHER TEST ITEMS
History/Social Science	
Science 3	
Science 4	
Science 5	
Science 6	
Life Science	
Earth Science	
Physical Science	
Biology	
Chemistry	